

## **Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 1, 2011**

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

### **Budget News**

Following an all-night session, the House passed a budget Friday morning.

That package, heard and approved in the Senate this afternoon, includes:

**S1612:** general appropriations 2011-2012, Now: 2011-2012; general appropriations

**S1613:** 2011-2012; capital outlay, Now: capital outlay; 2011-2012

**S1614:** 2011-2012; state budget procedures, Now: state budget procedures; 2011-2012

**S1615:** consolidation; state agencies, Now: state agencies; consolidation

**S1616:** revenue; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; revenue; 2011-2012

**S1617:** K-12 education; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; K-12 education; 2011-2012

**S1618:** higher education; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; higher education; 2011-2012

**S1619:** health; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; health; 2011-2012

**S1620:** welfare; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget conciliation; welfare; 2011-2012

**S1621:** criminal justice; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; criminal justice; 2011-2012

**S1622:** general government; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; general government; 2011-2012

**S1623:** regulation; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; regulation; 2011-2012

**S1624:** environment; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; environment; 2011-2012

The bills are now headed to the Governor.

Information on these bills, as posted on the Arizona State Legislature website, can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp?FirstBill=SB1601&LastBill=SB1650>.

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) March 31 Budget Proposal House Engrossed** report is provided at the link below.

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mar31budgethouseeng.pdf>

The **JLBC Summary of Budget Proposals** - a comparison of proposals (Executive, Senate and March 31<sup>st</sup>) and list of general fund changes per agency is posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/summary033111proposal.pdf>.

#### **Other fiscal news**

The **JLBC Tracking Arizona's Recovery March 2011** report is posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery.pdf>.

According to the **March 2011 JLBC Monthly Fiscal Report** - "February was the seventh consecutive month of year-over-year growth in base General Fund revenue collections."

A link to the report is provided here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-mar-11.pdf>.

On Thursday, the **Governor** sent a letter to U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. A link to the Governor's letter is provided here:

[http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR\\_033111\\_LetterSecretarySebelius.pdf](http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_033111_LetterSecretarySebelius.pdf).

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#### **STATE LEGISLATION:**

After passing a budget package, both the House and Senate are adjourned until Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Legislative action** taking place on *some* of the bills on the Council's **SHORT** list this week:

**H2099: AHCCCS: Hospice Care; Restoration** allows Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to cover end-of-life care at inpatient hospice facilities for individuals who are on Medicaid. Latest action: 3/30 Senate Committee of the Whole approved.

**H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols** directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to adopt rules that establish emergency stroke care protocols. Latest action: 3/29 from Senate Rules Committee with okay.

**H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities** requires, as of January 1, 2012, every mobile dental facility and persons or entities that use portable dental units to obtain a permit from the state Board of Dental Examiners (Board). Latest action: 3/29 from Senate Rules Committee with okay.

**S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging** modifies the requirements for the finger imaging programs for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Latest action: 3/28 from House Committee of the Whole approved.

**Hearing scheduled next week:**

**S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation**, Hearing on 4/4/ at 1:00 pm, House Rules Committee, House Rm. 4.

**For a complete list of legislative action and hearings on all the bills being tracked, see the information provided at the LIST links below.**

More than 290 floor actions were filed over the past week at the state legislature.

*At the end of day 82, 1,350 bills posted and 23 passed, nine signed; 142 memorials or resolutions posted, 17 passed.* Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and are being tracked by the Council and appear on the *Legislative Update* web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

**SHORT LIST** – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

**FULL LIST:**

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

**Note: The SHORT LIST and FULL LIST website links** provide you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and are available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ***These lists will continue to be edited and updated as long as the legislative session continues.*** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

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**Share your thoughts!** If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

**Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

If you're interested in committee membership and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you're interested in learning more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

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## **FEDERAL LEGISLATION:**

### **S.582**

#### **Social Security Protection Act of 2011**

Introduced on 3/15/2011 by Senator Bernard Sanders (VT), the bill has nine cosponsors.

Social Security Protection Act of 2011:

Makes it out of order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider any legislation that:

(1) increases the retirement age or the early retirement age for individuals receiving benefits under title II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act on or after the enactment of this Act;

(2) reduces cost-of-living increases for them;

- (3) reduces benefit payment amounts for them; or
- (4) creates private retirement accounts for any of the OSADI benefits they receive.

On March 15, 2011, the bill was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

**Contact Your Congressional Member.** If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

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#### **Other News:**

##### ***May is Older Americans Month***

**Administration on Aging (AoA)** offers information and resources at:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Observances/2011/Older\\_Americans.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2011/Older_Americans.aspx)

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#### **INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

***WHAT: Earth Day 4 Corners Environmental Education Symposium, First Nation's Children and Elders Community Roundtable***

***WHERE: STAR School, 145 Leupp Rd., Flagstaff AZ***

***For more information:***

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/EarthDayFourCornersPressRelease.pdf>

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***WHAT: Northern Arizona Gerontology Association Getting Good at Getting Old- Strategies for Healthy Aging; 27<sup>th</sup> Rural Conference on Aging***

**WHEN: Friday, April 29, 2011**, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, Federated Church, 406 W. Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ

**For more information:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NAGA2011RegForm.pdf>

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**WHAT: 2011 Southeastern Arizona Suicide Prevention Conference**  
***Promoting Hope Building a Stronger Community for Armed Forces Members and Their Families***

**WHEN: Monday, May 23, 2011**, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, 2502 N. Dodge Blvd., Tucson, AZ

**For more information:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDate052311Brochure.pdf>

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If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

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**Note: Due to staffing, the *Legislative Update* is being issued approximately every two weeks. Thank you for your understanding. Have a good weekend!**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**